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STAKEOUT WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY PERRY, SECRETARY OF STATE CHRISTOPHER,
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF CHAIRMAN SHALIKASHVILI, SENATOR SAM NUNN
AND FORMER JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF CHAIRMAN COLIN POWELL
FOLLOWING CAPITOL HILL BRIEFING TO SENATORS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

APPROXIMATELY 3:00 P.M., EDT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1994

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SEC. CHRISTOPHER: Good afternoon. We've just finished a
briefing of a very large number of senators. I think they all agreed
with us that it was much better to awaken this morning to the sounds
of peace rather than the sound of bullets. We all feel that the
agreement that was negotiated by President Carter, General Powell,
Senator Nunn, was a major achievement. It brings the restoration of
democracy in Haiti much closer. It provides the opportunity for a
long-term solution to the migration problems. From my own standpoint,
it really is a classic case of power being used in the service of
diplomacy, American power in the service of American diplomacy.

I know you want to hear from the others here, so I'd like to turn
1 at to Secretary Perry and General Shalikashvili, who might give you
an update on the situation in Haiti. And then we'll want to hear, and
I know you'll most want to hear from General Powell and Senator Nunn,
who haven't had much sleep in the last 48 hours, but have once again,
as they so often have in their career, contributed enormously to

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American well-being, and I think have done a great service for the cause of peace.

Secretary Perry?

SEC. PERRY: Thank you. I want to reiterate the secretary's comments. Our thanks to Senator Nunn, General Powell, and to former President Carter for really a very, very effective job of diplomacy.

We have -- I'll report to you very briefly that the operations in Haiti are going very well to this point. We have several battalions of forces already on the ground there, and we established a command center in the airport. We have a battalion at the port and will be bringing ships in there this afternoon for off-loading major equipment, including Bradleys.

We have to this point the complete cooperation of the Haitian military. General Shelton met this morning with General Cedras, and General Cedras offered him his cooperation.

So, so far so good. I do want to caution you that this is a very difficult and a risky operation in many ways and there may be problems ahead of us, but to this point things are going very well.

General Shali?

GEN. SHALIKASHVILI: Well, the only thing I would want to add is to say that as a soldier I am extraordinarily thankful to President Carter and to Senator Nunn and to General Powell because they, through their very hard work, made it possible for soldiers to be entering Haiti in a cooperative spirit as opposed to in a fight.

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And so, for a soldier, that's extraordinarily gratifying.

The only other update that I can give you on how things are going today is to say that they are going very well so far. We have, in fact, the first C-5 aircraft on the ground. The first ro-ro ship has pulled up to the pier delivering equipment. That's going well. But one word of caution to all of you: This is the first day in a long series of days, and it is too early to tell what the next days will bring. And we as the military and we as the nation must be prepared that casualties still could come and must be prepared for the unexpected. But so far things are going very well.

Senator Nunn?

SEN. NUNN: Thank you very much.

Rebuilding democracy, which was one of President Clinton's goals in Haiti -- or building democracy -- is a difficult process. It is not accomplished by the return of one man, even a man who was elected by the overwhelming majority of the Haitian people. So President Aristide's return is one item -- one important item on the list. But just as important, in my view, is the free and fair election of parliament, which has to take place under the Haitian constitution by December. We're in the Congress of the United States now, and this institution, as unpopular as it is at times, even when we show up on the polls around 10 percent favorability, without the Congress of the United States you don't have a democracy. The same will be true in Haiti. You will not have a democracy until you have an independent parliament, until you have a sound judicial system, and until the other institutions there are built or rebuilt.

So that is crucial, and I think our nation needs to focus on that, not that we will be basically delivering that. That's up to the Haitian people itself -- themselves. But our job there now and our military job is to provide stability, the essential stability. It is my hope the international community will come in on the building or rebuilding phase. We're going to have to have a lot of help to do that. This is a long-term process. As General Shali says, the danger is not over, but what we have had now is permissive entry, which we believe has saved a considerable number of lives.

So have a long way to go, but we've made some substantial progress. Without General Powell, without President Carter, without the strong leadership of President Clinton certainly, it would not

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have happened. General Powell has tremendous credibility with the Haitian military and the Haitian people. He is a hero.

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He was able to deliver a very strong, firm message to the Haitian military and yet a very sensitive message in crucial meetings as to what honor and country and courage meant, and what -- particularly in those difficult circumstances. So it's my pleasure to introduce General Powell and I would also, as I said this morning, say President Carter's leadership was absolutely indispensable. His initiative, his credibility because of his great humanitarian work, his deep Christian beliefs and the understanding of the people of that country about his religious and Christian beliefs, all of that played a critical role. General Powell, of course, was indispensable.

GEN. POWELL: Thank you, Senator. My colleagues have covered the situation rather well. I don't really have anything to add except to thank President Clinton and the members of his administration for giving us such splendid support, and I consider myself to have been honored to serve with President Carter and the distinguished senator from Georgia, Senator Nunn, on this very, very important mission, which I believe has been a success. Thank you.

Q (Off mike) -- do you foresee how long they'll be there and what poses the biggest threats to them now?

STAFF: Last question.

SEC. PERRY: The multinational force which will be there for several months -- the American troops that landed today were the vanguard of that multinational force. It's hard to put a specific time. At this point we can only describe the mission they have to do, and their mission is to secure adequate order so that we can turn that job over to the United Nations force which will come in after that. This could take some months.

SEC. CHRISTOPHER: Thank you very much. We're late.

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